B I R D C A L E N D A R

B u l l e t i n N o . 1 - - - M a r c h , 1 9 1 9

The period from December to March, 1918-1919 will be remembered as one of the mildest winters on record, not only in Ohio but over a large portion of the northern hemisphere. In sharp contrast to last year with its heavy snows and zero temperatures, the frost line of the present winter has descended to hardly four inches, and precipitation in the form of snow has been negligible; there have been no ice-storms, and no severe or prolonged cold.

The spring and summer of 1917 will also be remembered as exceedingly wet and cold, and in consequence very fatal to nesting birds, especially in the Middle and Atlantic States.

Cosmic influences, now usually attributed to solar disturbances, as indicated by "sun spots", the prevalence of which has been reported for two years past, - have evidently been at work in creating changes in the air-currents of the earth. The most striking characteristic of the present season's climate has been the southerly component in storms, the winds seldom holding long from any northerly points, but prevailing or finally dying at the southerly points; a body of mild air has thus been left in the wake of nearly every storm. How have such unusual conditions affected bird-life? Chiefly in two ways: (1) by reducing the number of winter birds, or Winter Visitors mainly, from the north, since the general mildness has rendered the food-supply everywhere more stable, and (2) by a slight acceleration only of the northern movement of Summer Residents. This was most noticeable in the Song Sparrows which have given us their earliest general record, - February 14, and possibly in the Robins of the same and slightly later dates. In the Song Sparrow the movement was apparently more general. This tends to show that any marked climatic change is not alone sufficient to deflect immediately the majority of migratory birds from their normal cycle of behavior which is strictly ingrained.

1. Cardinal Grosbeak; Singing on Noble Road, February 24; no dates are given for the following winter resident birds. Nos. 1 – 11, as they have but little significance.
2. Tree Sparrow; Rather common throughout the winter.
3. Chickadee; Everywhere common.
4. Junco; Seen but occasionally.
5. Downy Woodpecker; Rarely seen, though one of our commonest winter birds.
6. Hairy Woodpecker; One record only, that of March 11, by Prof. Hulme.
7. Blue Jay; Unusually rare.
8. White-breasted Nuthatch; But rarely seen.
9. Sparrow Hawk; One male only noticed in Wade Park, March 4.
10. Screech Owl; Usually seen or heard at occasional intervals, but seldom reported this season.
11. Tufted Titmouse; Reported one only; March 10, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.
12. Crow; First seen about February 10, but becoming common after that date.
13. Song Sparrow; February 14, Noble Rd; Several singing with the usual Introductory 3-bar notes at 9 A.M.; thereafter becoming daily more

numerous. This is the earliest recorded date of movements of the in considerable numbers, the previous earliest dates since 1905 being February 18, 1913; Feb'y. 21, 1915; Feb'y. 22, 1909, and Feb'y 25, 1906. A single bird was seen coming to our porch for crumbs on January 3, 1918, and was probably attempting to make this vicinity its winter home. There is also a record for Jan'y. 25, 1910.

14. Robin; Feb'y 14, Noble Road, one heard and seen by Mrs. Ruedy; Feb'y. 22, Adelbert College Campus, one seen by Mrs. Williams; Mar. 2, Mayfield Rd., Donald Hulme; Mar. 12, singing, Mayfield Rd., Mrs. R. Our earliest previous records of the Robin are in January 9, 1910; February 6, 1909; Feb'y 17, 1911; Feb'y. 18, 1914; Feb'y 20, 1908, and 1913 and 1915; Feb'y 22, 1906 and Feb'y 26, 1917, some of these undoubtedly being resident here for the winter.
15. Bluebird; March 2, Noble Road, Mrs. Ruedy; March 3, Mayfield Hts., several Donald Hulme; and same date at Wade Park, Professor Hulme. Earlier dates for this species furnished by our records are; Feb'y 20, 1906 and 1915; Feb'y 22, 1909; Feb'y 27, 1918 and March 1, 1910 and 1917.
16. Bronzed Grackle; March 2, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy; March 6, six, Mayfield Rd; thereafter common. Earlier previouls records are Feb'y 25, 1906; March 1, 1909; records of same date are March 2, 1915 and 1917.
17. Killdeer; March 3, Mayfield Road, Donald Hulme; March 11, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.
18. Flicker; March 3, Noble Road, Mrs. Ruedy.
19. Meadow Lark; March 3, Noble Rd. Mrs. Ruedy; and Mayfield Heights, Donald Hulme; abundant by about March 10.

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